IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 9, 13, 16 and 19 and add claims 20 and 21 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

transmitting a messaging service message from a sender in a first system having a first structure for messages to a receiver of a second system having a second structure for the messages; and

utilizing a bearer independent protocol in the transmission of the message between a server and user equipment, said bearer independent protocol ~~providing access to bearers of the first system and the second system.~~being above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

supporting the bearer independent protocol in a receiver's equipment;

receiving the message having the first structure in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;

converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol, and

transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment using the bearer independent protocol.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

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supporting the bearer independent protocol in a sender's equipment; and

transmitting the message from the sender's equipment to the receiver's equipment using the bearer independent protocol.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, further comprising, if the message transmission to the receiver's equipment fails,

converting the message to have the second structure; and

transmitting the message to the receiver's equipment in the second structure.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

supporting the bearer independent protocol in the sender's equipment;

sending the message from the sender's equipment according to the bearer independent protocol;

receiving the message in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;

converting the received message from the bearer independent protocol structure to the second structure; and

transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

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receiving the message having the bearer independent protocol structure in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;

converting the message to have the second structure; and

transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

supporting the bearer independent protocol in receiver's equipment; and

if the message transmission of the converted message fails,

converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol, and

transmitting the message from the server to the receiver's equipment according to the bearer independent protocol.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the transmission of the message having a structure of the bearer independent protocol comprises:

storing the content of the message;

sending an address of the content to the receiver's equipment; and

reading the content by using the address.

9. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication system, comprising:

a first system having a first structure for messaging service messages;

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a second system having a second structure for the messages; and

a server via which a message is transmitted from the first system to the second system, the server being configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in the transmission of the message from the first system to the second system, said bearer independent protocol being above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.~~providing access to bearers of the first system and the second system.~~

10. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system according to claim 9, wherein the first system comprises a network node having functionality related to messaging services within the first system, the network node being configured to recognize the message sent to the second system and forward the message to the server.

11. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system according to claim 9, wherein the first system comprises at least user equipment which comprises a sender application using the bearer independent protocol for sending messages according to the bearer independent protocol, the user equipment being configured to start the sender application in response to the message targeted to the second system.

12. (Previously Presented) The telecommunication system according to claim 9, wherein the system comprises another server configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol for transmitting the message, one of the servers being a first server via which the

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message is transmitted from a sender in the first system to the second system and the other one being a second server via which the message is transmitted from the first system towards a receiver in the second system,

the first server is configured, in response to receiving the message having the first structure, to convert the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, and send the converted message to the second server, and

the second server is configured, in response to receiving the message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, to convert the message to have the second structure before forwarding the message to the receiver.

13. (Currently Amended) A server configured to:

utilize a bearer independent protocol in the transmission of a message from a first system having a first structure for messaging service messages to a second system having a second structure for the messages, said bearer independent protocol being above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.providing access to bearers of the first system and the second system.

14. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 13, wherein the server is configured, in response to receiving the message having the first structure, to convert the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent protocol before forwarding the message.

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15. (Previously Presented) The server according to claim 14, wherein the server is configured, in response to receiving a message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, to convert the message to have the second structure before forwarding the message.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, further comprising if the message transmission to the receiver's equipment fails,

   converting the message to have the second structure; and

   transmitting the message to the receiver's equipment in the second structure.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:

   supporting the bearer independent protocol in receiver's equipment; and, if the message transmission of the converted message fails,

   converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol; and

   transmitting the message from the server to the receiver's equipment according to the bearer independent protocol.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the transmission of the message having a structure of the bearer independent protocol includes:

   storing the content of the message;

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sending an address of the content to the receiver's equipment; and

reading the content by using the address.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

utilizing means configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in transmission

of a message between a sender of the message and a receiver of the message, said bearer

independent protocol being above a bearer protocol in a protocol stackproviding access to

bearers of a first system and a second system, the apparatus being used for transmitting a

messaging service message from the sender in the first system having a first structure for

messages to the receiver of the second system having a second structure for the messages.

20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising converting

means configured to be responsive to the apparatus receiving a message having the first

structure, to convert the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent

protocol, and to send the converted message to the second system.

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising converting

means configured to be responsive to the apparatus receiving a message having a

structure according to the bearer independent protocol, to convert the message to have the

second structure, and to forward the converted message to the second system.

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